

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development, and Related Agencies
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Michael K. Simpson
Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy
and Water Development, and Related Agencies
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 2051

Dear Chairwoman Kaptur and Ranking Member Simpson:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, we respectfully request robust funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC). The SCRC is an independent federal agency dedicated to promoting economic development in the Southeastern United States – specifically Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. Established in the model of other regional commissions, such as the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) and Delta Regional Authority, the SCRC, if appropriately funded, will serve as a significant federal resource for jobs and businesses, particularly in distressed and underserved communities.

The SCRC was created through the 2008 Farm Bill alongside the Northern Border Regional Commission and Southwest Border Regional Commission to address and improve economic conditions in communities across the nation lacking access to capital and adequate public infrastructure. Commission investments to grow business and job development opportunities include basic public infrastructure, workforce training, and telecommunications, among other key assets. The SCRC is led by governors of the region's seven states and a presidentially-appointed co-chair.

Regional commissions have a demonstrated history of delivering advantageous economic results. For example, in FY2020, the ARC invested \$162 million in 474 projects supporting 26,300 jobs and leveraging \$858 million in private funding.¹ The ARC also supported training for 20,800 students and workers during the year. Likewise, in FY2020, the Northern Border Regional Commission dedicated \$18 million towards 38 projects with \$110 million matched from other public and private investments; an additional \$5 million dollars was awarded to five projects to support development in areas traditionally dependent on forest-based industries.²

The SCRC has been inactive to date due to the absence of a Senate-confirmed federal co-chair. Should that position be nominated and confirmed, a process we hope will occur as soon as possible, additional

¹ <https://www.arc.gov/report/appalachian-region-fy-2020-investments/>

² https://www.nbrc.gov/uploads/NBRC-2020-Annual-Report-Final_12-28-web.pdf

federal funding will be necessary for the SCRC to carry out its congressionally directed mission. Although the SCRC received \$250,000 annually from FY2010 – FY2020, and \$1 million in FY2021, funding has been far short of its authorization and reauthorization levels of \$30 million and \$33 million annually in the 2008 and 2018 Farm Bills, respectively. While the increase in FY2021 is critical for the SCRC's future launch, additional funding will be essential for the SCRC to launch grants and research to advance economic opportunities.

We urge robust funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in the Fiscal Year 2022 Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. Additional federal resources will be critical to promote sustainable economies, job and business development, and improved quality of life throughout the Southeast United States.

Sincerely,



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress

/s/

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

G.K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

/s/

Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress

/s/

Trent Kelly
Member of Congress

/s/

Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress

/s/

Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress